

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for measuring bio-impedance due to joint movement, comprising:

5 a constant current source comprised of an oscillation frequency circuit and a voltage-to-current conversion circuit for generating a weak current;

 current stimulus electrodes for allowing the weak current to flow from a point of a living body to another;

10 at least two voltage detection electrodes for measuring voltage on a certain region of the living body through which the weak current flows;

 a demodulator for demodulating the voltage measured by the voltage detection electrodes;

15 a signal gain and offset controller for controlling gain and offset of signals that have passed through the demodulator; and

 an isolated amplifier for isolating the constant current source from the signals.

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2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a low-pass filter for eliminating noise other than impedance signals that vary according to the joint movement from the signals that have passed through the demodulator.

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3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising gain and offset controllers for controlling gain and offset of the signals that have passed through the isolated amplifiers.

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4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the weak current has a frequency of 40 KHz and a magnitude of 300 μ A.

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5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the voltage detecting electrodes are positioned at m points on each of n-1 lines that divide an interval between a first joint and a second joint, between which the weak current flows, into equal n parts (m and n are natural numbers).

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6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the voltage detecting electrodes are positioned at:

two points on each of three lines that equally quadrisect an interval between an ankle and a knee joint;

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four points on each of two lines that equally trisect an interval between the knee joint and a hip joint; and

a certain point between the ankle and toes.

7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
25 voltage detecting electrodes are positioned at:

two points on each of three lines that quadrisect an interval between a wrist and an elbow joint;

four points on each of two lines that trisect an interval between the elbow joint and a shoulder joint; and

5 a certain point between the wrist and fingers.

8. A method of measuring bio-impedance attributable to joint movement, comprising the steps:

generating a weak current by use of a constant current
10 source;

causing the weak current to flow from a point to another point;

forming L voltage detecting electrode pairs from voltage detecting electrodes positioned at m points on each of n-1
15 lines that divide an interval between a first joint and a second joint, between which the weak current flows, into equal n parts (m and n are natural numbers), using combination ($mC2=L$);

detecting bio-impedance at certain periods from J (L-K)
20 voltage detecting electrode pairs that are obtained by subtracting K voltage detecting electrode pairs, each of which exists on a single dividing line, from the formed L voltage detecting electrode pairs; and

selecting a pair of voltage detecting electrodes having a
25 highest variation of bio-impedance.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the weak current has a frequency of 40 KHz and a magnitude of 300 μ A.

5 10. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the m points are two points on each of three lines that equally quadrisection an interval between an ankle and a knee joint between which the weak current flows.

10 11. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the m points are two points on each of three lines that equally quadrisection an interval between an ankle and a knee joint between which the weak current flows, and four points on each of two lines that equally trisection an interval between the knee
15 joint and a hip joint.

12. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the m points are four points on each of two lines that equally trisection an interval between the knee joint and a hip joint.

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13. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the m points are two points on each of three lines that equally quadrisection an interval between an ankle and a knee joint between which the weak current flows, and a certain point
25 between the ankle and toes.

14. A system for analyzing joint movement using variations of bio-impedance attributable to the joint movement, comprising:

5 a constant current source comprised of an oscillation frequency circuit and a voltage-to-current conversion circuit for generating a weak current;

current stimulus electrodes for allowing the weak current to flow from a point of a living body to another;

10 a first channel comprised at least two voltage detection electrodes which positioned in a certain region between a hip joint and a knee joint, a demodulator, a gain and offset controller and an isolated amplifier;

a second channel comprised at least two voltage detection
15 electrodes which positioned in a certain region between the hip joint and an ankle joint, a demodulator, a gain and offset controller and an isolated amplifier;

a third channel comprised at least two voltage detection electrodes which positioned in a certain region between a knee
20 joint and the ankle joint, a demodulator, a gain and offset controller and an isolated amplifier;

a fourth channel comprised at least two voltage detection electrodes which positioned in a certain region between the knee joint and toes, a demodulator, a gain and offset
25 controller and an isolated amplifier;

an Analog/Digital (A/D) converter for converting signals output from the channels into digital signals; and

a control unit for calculating the digital signals output from the A/D converter into angular variations of the joints.

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15. The system as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a display unit for displaying values input to and calculated by the control unit.

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16. The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the control unit calculates the bio-impedance signals output from the channels into the variations of angles using $X \text{ degrees}/Y \text{ ohms} = Z \text{ degree/ohm}$ (in the case where a range of movement from a maximal flexion to a maximal extension of each joint is $X \text{ degrees}$ and a range of a variation of the bio-impedance is $Y \text{ ohms}$) with respect to an increase or a decrease of 1 ohm.

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17. The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the certain region is a position where the variation of bio-impedance attributable to the joint movement is greatest.

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18. The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the control unit displays an avatar corresponding to the joint movement on the display unit using the bio-impedance signals attributable to the joint movement and a certain analysis

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program.

19. The system as set forth in claim 18, wherein the control unit further displays a menu for monitoring and
5 analyzing the joint movement and the bio-impedance signals on the display unit.